

Board of Pilot Commissioners for the Bays of San  
Francisco, San Pablo and Suisun  
Pier 9, Suite 102, San Francisco, CA 94111  
Phone: (415) 397-2253 Fax: (415) 397-9463  
E-mail: [pilots@earthlink.net](mailto:pilots@earthlink.net) website: [www.pilotcommission.org](http://www.pilotcommission.org)



Contact: Knute Michael Miller  
(415) 397-2253

## STATEMENT FROM CALIFORNIA BOARD OF PILOT COMMISSIONERS REGARDING NTSB INVESTIGATION REPORT COSCO BUSAN ACCIDENT

*NTSB report is consistent with conclusions reached by the Board of Pilot Commissioners*

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) on February 18, 2009 announced its conclusion that the probable cause of the COSCO BUSAN accident included the pilot's degraded cognitive performance and lack of a comprehensive pre-departure master/pilot exchange. The NTSB report is consistent with conclusions reached by the Board of Pilot Commissioners as a result of its own investigation.

The investigations arose out of the accident on November 7, 2007, in which the M/V COSCO BUSAN struck one of the towers of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, damaging the ship and the bridge's fendering system and releasing over 50,000 gallons of fuel oil into the waters of San Francisco Bay.

Following is a statement from Knute Michael Miller, President of the California Pilot Commission:

"The Commission is pleased that the NTSB report confirms our own investigation of the COSCO BUSAN incident which found that human error in the form of pilot negligence was a factor in the accident.

"While the NTSB did not direct any recommendations to the Pilot Commission, it did recommend that the Coast Guard adopt requirements for mariners to report any substantive changes in their medical status or medication use that occur between required medical evaluations. Similar requirements for pilots licensed by the Pilot Commission are already in place under legislation that became effective January 2009.

"The NTSB also recommended that the Coast Guard establish a mechanism through which representatives of pilot oversight organizations collect and regularly communicate pilot performance data and information regarding pilot oversight and best practices. This Pilot Commission has already begun that process with its participation in the first such regional conference of pilot commissions in Oregon last November.

"The BOPC is committed to ensuring the safety of the public and environment. This serious navigational accident has offered us all the opportunity to work together to strengthen our oversight and we look forward to the NTSB's final report."

*The Board of Pilot Commissioners for the Bays of San Francisco, San Pablo and Suisun was established in 1850 to provide State oversight for the San Francisco bay pilots. The Commission licenses and regulates maritime pilots navigating San Francisco Bay and its tributaries as far inland as the Ports of Stockton and Sacramento, and in Monterey Bay. The Board's responsibilities include training, incident investigation and rate determination. On January 1, 2009, the Board became a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency.*